



## Frequently Asked Questions

### *Koko Head Shooting Complex (KHSC) Closure 2022*



#### **1. When was the Koko Head Shooting Complex closed in 2022 and why?**

On September 16, 2022 the shooting complex was closed, including the north-facing public range and the south-facing ranges utilized by law enforcement and authorized firearm organizations, after the City received notice that many of the complex employees received blood test results indicating elevated levels of lead. The test results indicated that the lead levels were well below the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and medically established levels of concern. Although the levels did not pose an immediate health risk to the staff, they were relocated out of an abundance of caution. This created a staffing shortage at the shooting complex.

#### **2. Are the KHSC employees okay, and are public shooters at risk of experiencing similar elevated levels of lead?**

To our knowledge, all of the KHSC employees are okay; all are either continuing in other park positions, or are in the process of being placed in other park jobs if possible. The City takes the health of the public and our employees very seriously. We notified all affected employees of this testing and encouraged them to consult with their health care providers to ensure none of them had personal underlying medical conditions that would create any issues for them.

Similar to the staff at the complex, if any public shooter has a concern about these circumstances having adverse health impacts, we recommend consulting your primary care physician.

#### **3. Has this happened in the past?**

Yes. To the best of our knowledge, there was one employee who reported elevated lead levels in 2014. That staff member was reassigned to a different location out of an abundance of caution.

#### **4. Is the community or surrounding environment at risk from lead exposure?**

No, based upon review by the State Department of Health and a consultant retained by the City, the community and surrounding environment are not at risk. In 2001 the City conducted an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Master Plan for Koko Head District Park and Koko Head Shooting Complex. That process included review and comment from the State Department of Health (DOH). Due to the nature of the activity, outdoor shooting ranges are known to have lead on the site. The environmental regulations primarily concern the mitigation of lead migrating off the site, either through storm water runoff, groundwater, or the recycling or disposal of lead. The DOH did not consider these issues to be of concern because the EIS reported the Koko

Head Shooting Range is not over any potable water source and is located above the tsunami inundation zone in a contained area with a retention basin where water remains onsite.

In addition, after a site visit in 2008, the DOH indicated that it “did not identify any imminent threats to human health or the environment, or evidence of off-site migration of contaminants at this time.” This visit included representatives from the department’s Clean Water, Clean Air, Solid & Hazardous Waste branches, and Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response Office.

Most recently, the City’s environmental consultant provided results from a lead-in-air monitoring service conducted while a City employee was cleaning the firing line during the KHSC closure. This analysis did not detect any lead in the sample collected.

**5. What is being done to improve these circumstances?**

The City conducted two projects in 2014 and 2020 to address the lead concerns and to minimize potential ricochet incidents. In 2014 the City conducted a backstop remediation project, which encapsulated the backstop with clean sand and soil. The fill provided clean material to reduce ricochet potential and also encapsulated the spent bullets in the backstop. In 2020 the City conducted a cleanup of the range firing line, utilizing a consultant expert in the field of environmental hazard construction remediation.

The City is planning a berm renovation project to add 3,000 cubic yards of new soil to the backstops similar to the 2014 project. DPR has also hired an environmental consultant and an expert in outdoor range management, and is working with the DOH and local law enforcement agencies to review and recommend best management practices for this facility to minimize future risk of lead exposure to our employees and facility users. While we are awaiting additional guidance in this regard, the City has already had initial discussions with our consultants and DOH concerning modifications to cleaning procedures, signage, berm maintenance, and complex standard operating procedures.

**6. Does the City intend to reopen KHSC for public and law enforcement usage?**

Yes. We understand the environmental concerns of the neighboring community, and also recognize the shooting complex’s importance to the local firearms community, as this location is the only public shooting range on O‘ahu. According to our most recent data, the pistol and rifle ranges at KHSC accommodated over 32,500 users last year.

We appreciate everyone’s patience while we work with the experts to make necessary improvements to ensure the shooting complex can operate safely upon its reopening, including addressing the concerns of our employees.

**7. When is KHSC scheduled to reopen?**

We are awaiting the recommendations from the above-mentioned consultants before proceeding with the berm renovation project. These consultations are scheduled to take place in December 2022.